

From: Scibak, John (HOU) <john.scibak@mahouse.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, August 24, 2011 9:57 AM
To: Hanchett, James (DPH)
Subject: RE: Amherst Lab Closure

Dear Jim,

Thanks for the data. I know that Sen. Rosenberg is spearheading our efforts to reverse this decision. Your data, together with the letter which I received yesterday from the Western Mass Chiefs of Police provide clear evidence that this decision is shortsighted and the overall costs associated with this closure will far exceed the purported savings in the DPH budget.

You have my unequivocal support and I will do whatever I can to see that the lab remains open.

Rep. John W. Scibak
Chairman, Joint Committee on Public Service
Second Hampshire District

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From: Hanchett, James (DPH) [mailto:james.hanchett@massmail.state.ma.us]
Sent: Monday, August 22, 2011 11:05 AM
To: Scibak, John - Rep. (HOU)
Subject: Amherst Lab Closure

Hi John,

I am asking for your assistance in keeping the Department of Public Health Drug Laboratory open at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. We understand the fiscal restraints the State is under, but this decision would not save money. It would just shift costs to the 108 cities and towns of Western Massachusetts. Samples would have to be transported by each area city or town to Jamaica Plain. This would increase the work load of the 11 chemists working there. Jamaica Plain's backlog of 3 months will increase to 6 months. This would cause an undo hardship for the judicial system of Massachusetts. Drug results for trial will be delayed and there will be a shortage of chemists to testify in court as required by the Melendez-Diaz Decision. Any assistance you could give us would be greatly appreciated. Here is the Fiscal year 2011 data.

Fiscal Year 2011	
Samples Received in Amherst	4832
Samples Analyzed in Amherst	4629
Back Log Samples Average	167
Back Log Days Average	33 Days
Samples Received from Boston	1527
Samples Analyzed from Boston	1527
Total Samples Received in Amherst	6359
Total Samples Analyzed in Amherst	6156
Current Back Log Samples	567
Current Back Log Days	38 Days
Western Mass Samples Analyzed	
Cocaine	1265
Heroin	674
Marijuana	1233
Oxycodone	299
Others	1158
Court Data	
Summons Received	478
Court Appearances	60
Hours Out of Laboratory	253

Thanks,

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